

U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Woman Sentenced to Prison for Stealing Over \$1.4 Million from Law Firm

Washington, D.C. - Tamika Beasley, 36, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was sentenced today by the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, U.S. District Judge, to 39 months of imprisonment and three years of supervised release, following her guilty plea to Wire Fraud on November 3, 2009. Beasley also was ordered to pay \$1,329,650 in restitution to her former employer.

Beasley admitted during the plea proceeding that she was previously employed at the Washington, D.C. law firm of James E. Brown & Associates, and that she was responsible for preparing the firm's payroll. Over a six-year period, she made numerous unauthorized electronic transfers between the firm's bank account and various bank accounts held in her name. In this manner, the defendant stole approximately \$1,422,631. Beasley attempted to conceal her theft by making false entries in the firm's payroll records, showing that unauthorized payments were loans, and that the loans were later repaid.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the excellent work of the United States Secret Service investigators in this case, particularly Special Agent Eric Traceski. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Diane Lucas, who assisted with forfeiture issues in the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Schmidt, who investigated the case and took the plea.

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